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IPK-023470-US

Appl. No. 10/672,428
Amdt. Dated : September 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 28, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 and 19-40 are cancelled.

Claims 10-13 and 15-18 are amended. Support for the amendment to Claim 10 is found at original Claims 10-13. Support for the amendment to Claims 11-13 and 15-18 is found at original Claims 11-13 and 15-18, respectively. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the amendments to Claims 10-13 and 15-18.

Claims 41-74 are newly added. Support for new Claim 41 is found at original Claims 10, 16, and 17. Support for new Claim 42 is found at original Claim 15. Support for new Claim 43 is found at original Claim 18. Support for new Claim 44 is found at page 15, lines 12-15, of the originally filed application. Support for new Claims 45-48 is found at page 16, lines 3-13, and page 8, lines 5-17, of the originally filed application. Support for new Claim 49 is found at original Claim 14. Support for new Claim 50 is found at page 15, lines 12-15, of the originally filed application. Support for new Claims 51-54 is found at page 16, lines 3-13, and page 8, lines 5-17, of the originally filed application. Support for new Claims 55 is found at original Claims 10, 11 and 13. Support for new Claims 56-58 is found at original Claim 10. Support for new Claim 59 is found at original Claim 11. Support for new Claim 60 is found at original Claim 11. Support for new Claim 61 is found at original Claim 11. Support for new Claim 62 is found at original Claim 12. Support for new Claim 63 is found at original Claim 14. Support for new Claim 64 is found at original Claim 15. Support for new Claim 65, 66, and 67 is found at original Claims 15, 16, and 17, respectively. Support for new Claim 68 is found at original

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Claims 10, 16 and 17. Support for new Claims 69-71 is found at original Claim 10. Support for new Claim 72 is found at original Claim 16. Support for new Claims 73 and 74 is found at original Claims 11 and 13. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the newly added claims.

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Elkins for providing very helpful guidance in the outstanding Office Action for overcoming the rejections therein, in particular the outstanding 112 rejections. Further, Applicants thank Examiner Elkins for indicating that Claims 13 and 17 are allowable. In the amendment above, Applicants have amended Claim 10 to adjust for 112 considerations and incorporate the embodiments of Claim 13 therein, including the embodiments of intervening Claims 11 and 12. Also, new independent Claim 41 includes the embodiments of Claim 17 and Claim 10, further including intervening Claim 16. Claims 11-18 and 42-54 depend from either Claim 10 or Claim 41, both of which contain previously indicated allowable subject matter.

In addition, Applicants have added independent Claims 55 and 68.

New Claim 55 includes most of the embodiments of original Claims 10 and 13; and therefore, appears similar to amended Claim 10 above and thus allowable as well. Those embodiments not present in new Claim 55, which are present in amended Claim 10, original Claim 10, original Claim 11, and original Claim 12 are recited as embodiments of new Claims

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56-62 which depend from new Claim 55. New Claims 63, 64, 65, 66, and 67 depend from new Claim 55 and correlate to amended Claims 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18, respectively.

New Claim 68 includes most of the embodiments of original Claims 10, 16 and 17; and therefore appears similar to new Claim 41 above and thus allowable as well. Those embodiments not present in new Claim 68, which are present in amended Claim 41, original Claim 10, and original Claim 16 are present as embodiments of new Claims 69-72 which depend from new Claim 68. New Claims 73 and 74 depend from new Claim 68 and correlate to amended Claims 11 and 13, respectively.

In light of the above, Claims 10-18 and 41-74 are now pending. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are allowable since it appears as if the 112 rejections have been corrected in accordance with the Office's suggestion and since the claims appear to contain the subject matter relied upon the Office for its indication of allowability in the outstanding Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that they have cancelled all non-allowable subject matter, leaving only the subject matter that has been deemed allowable by the Office in the outstanding Office Action. Applicants have done so in a manner to expedite efficient prosecution and allowance to grant to patent of such allowable subject matter. Applicants make no mention of the merits of the rejections in the outstanding Office Action, but reserve the right to pursue subject matter similar to that of the originally filed claims in a subsequent Continuation Application at a later date.

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Favorable consideration is respectfully requested in light of the amendment above combined with the remarks below.

The rejection of Claims 10-18 and 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the amendments to Claims 10-18 above combined with the cancellation of Claims 39 and 40. In these amendments, Applicants believe that they have adequately addressed to clarify the grammatical errors, as well as language related to double inclusion, plurality, and antecedent basis matters. Applicants apologize for such confusion; and, believe that the above-mentioned amendments clarify the claims with respect to each question element therein. Accordingly, withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 10-12, 14-16, 39 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is believed to be obviated by the amendments above combined with the cancellation of Claims 39 and 40. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is believed to be obviated by the amendments above. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Should anything further be required to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact below-signed by telephone.


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Please charge the amount of \$1020.00 required for the request for extension of time to our Deposit Account No. 09-0525. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 09-0525. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time.

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